

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 718

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Lance Corporal Steven Charles Tyler Cates, United States Marine Corps.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the Armed Forces, including the United States Marine Corps; sadly, many of these honored defenders of our nation and its liberties have fallen in battle throughout our country's history; and

WHEREAS, on September 20, 2004, Lance Corporal Steven Charles Tyler Cates, United States Marine Corps, was killed while serving active duty in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Cates was posthumously awarded the National Defense Service Medal and the Purple Heart in recognition of his dedicated and courageous service while making the ultimate sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, a beloved son, brother and husband, Steven Charles Tyler Cates was a 2001 graduate of Mt. Juliet High School, where he played baritone in the marching band and was an Eagle Scout; and

WHEREAS, he expressed his devout faith as a member of Cooks United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, following the patriotic tradition for which Mt. Juliet, Wilson County and the Volunteer State are renowned, Steven Charles Tyler Cates enlisted in the United States Marine

Corps just eight days after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001; like many in his generation, the attacks upon America by the forces of international terror was a call to arms that could not be ignored; and

WHEREAS, in August 2004, Lance Corporal Steven Charles Tyler Cates was deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as a machine gunner with the 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force; and

WHEREAS, like thousands of others of this nation's sons and daughters, Steven Charles Tyler Cates did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty and to free the Iraqi people; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Steven Charles Tyler Cates served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; as a member of the United States Marine Corps, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, Steven Charles Tyler Cates's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow Marines and his country, exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Cates is survived by his loving wife, Lisa Cates; father Steven C. Cates; mother, Patricia L. Shaw; stepfather, Phillip Shaw; grandparents, Adrian Lankford and Bernadean Shaw; great grandmother, Zonnie B. Moss; brother, Christopher Joe Samuel Cates; and sisters, Alisha Willis and Alexandria Shaw; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are proud to join with the United States Marine Corps and the citizens of Mt. Juliet, Wilson County, the State of Tennessee and the United States of America in honoring a fallen son; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED
FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE
CONCURRING, that we hereby honor the memory of Lance Corporal Steven Charles Tyler
Cates of Mt. Juliet and Wilson County for his heroic sacrifice of his life as a member of the
United States Marine Corps and express to his family our sorrow for his loss and our gratitude
for his commitment to the cause of freedom.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared
for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.